

## **Toward a more precise terminology for impact damage and an improved understanding of hunting weapons: first results from a large scale systematic experiment.**

Projectile points have recently taken an important place in debates on the complexity of Palaeolithic human behaviour. While the appearance of hunting weapons in the archaeological record was an important element in the past, current discussions focus a lot on the appearance of particular hunting methods. Distinctions are made between simple and complex weaponry, the latter assumed to be linked with modern humans only. While most of the identifications of hunting weapons in the archaeological record rely on the examination of so-called diagnostic impact damage, no reliable reference yet exist for distinguishing between hunting methods.

We present the first results of a large-scale and systematic experiment that intends to address hunting weapons in a systematic way. A thorough survey of the literature has highlighted some existing ambiguity in current terminological frameworks for describing impact fractures. Based on our experiments, we propose some attributes that may be relevant for improving these terminologies. Attention will also be devoted to the design and conceptual framework of our experimental program and to some first results concerning the essential variables influencing damage formation. The overall goal is to improve our understanding of the different fracture phenomena and their variability in order to enhance the reliability of the identification of hunting weapons and perhaps of their projecting mode.